

Central Pima Regional Partnership Council

Call to Order & Introductions

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Central Pima Regional Partnership Council was held on April 10, 2013 at City of Tucson Resource Campus Sentinel Building, 320 North Commerce Park Loop, Tucson, Arizona, 85745.

Chair Peg Harmon welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Chair Harmon called upon Regional Council members and staff to briefly introduce themselves.

Members Present: Peg Harmon, Dr. Dorothy Johnson, David Hill, George Rushing, Susan Pitt, Teri Meléndez, and Kelly Burroughs

Members Absent: Bob Hehli, Dr. Ann Mastergeorge

Others Present: Jessica Brisson, Central Pima Regional Director, Erin Lyons, Senior Director of the Southeast Area, Karen Woodhouse, Chief Program Officer, Dr. Lisa Colling, Program Evaluation Specialist, Kristen Richardson, Program Data Analyst, and Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dorothy Johnson to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2013 Central Pima Regional Council Meeting, seconded by member Kelly Burroughs. Motion Carried.

Call to the Public

None at this time.

Presentation & Update: Early Childhood Workforce Targeted Regional Evaluation Study

Chair Harmon introduced the agenda item and McREL Representatives Dr. Carrie Germeroth and Dr. Mark Fermanich. Dr. Germeroth introduced a third representative, Dr. Crystal Day-Hess, and provided an overview of their presentation. Dr. Germeroth began the presentation covering the objectives, approach, evaluation study questions, data collection methods, and how they strive to provide useful and actionable information to the Regional Council. Members asked questions and provided feedback on what types of information would be useful such as staff retention (yes, possible), child outcomes (only teacher self-reporting possible), and if teachers are being asked what their needs are (yes, possible). Members had discussion in detail with the McREL representatives regarding retention, specifically self-reporting versus actual numbers, with the conclusion that that data will in fact be looked into as available from First Things First. Members also discussed with the presenters possibilities of determining cost-effectiveness of the program in terms of sustainability and achieving outcomes, using the example of Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Presenters responded and explained that NFP is able to do such determination because they have thirty years of child outcome data. A member asked if the evaluators were comparing the different professional development programs when looking at the entire spectrum; to which presenters responded no, because each of the programs have very different purposes, so the costs are driven by different. Chair Harmon also shared that First Things First should probably have a flag up for the future to look into different contributions that affect retention; that the organization might consider tracking that. Chief Program Officer Karen Woodhouse shared that First Things First is moving forward with a workforce registry and should be up and running in next year to year and a half, which will be able to track educational levels and retention of early childhood professionals. Dr. Germeroth then moved forward with the presentation and informed members that among the examples of secondary data, that the reports from the Communities of Practice vary greatly among the coordinators. Discussion was had around the importance of having an established rubric of what determines success that aligns with the survey questions. Discussion was also had around the source for rubric being fidelity of the programs to Standards Of Practice and Scope Of Work, and how the report will be more quantifiable by the survey responses. Members also asked if there would be information on what type of costs per Community of Practice (yes). Members thanked the McREL representatives for attending and answering questions, stating they felt much better now that the McREL team has presented to the Regional Council.

Member Melendez left the meeting at approximately 5:11 p.m.

Update: Community Awareness and Outreach

Lisette DeMars, First Things First Parent Awareness & Community Outreach Coordinator, presented a copy of the monthly outreach report and highlighted recent and upcoming events. She provided information on the digital storytelling training she had just attended. Ms. DeMars encouraged the Regional Council to share any ideas for further outreach opportunities with her.

Update and Discussion: FTF Taskforce Recommendations for Regional Boundaries

Chair Peg Harmon introduced the agenda item and with Regional Director Jessica Brisson provided an overview regarding the recommendations and upcoming opportunities for input. Vice Chair Johnson stated that she would be attending the next feedback meeting and asked members for their opinions. Member Hill shared that he disagrees with the recommendation to combine the North Pima and Central Pima regions because they have very different demographics, bigger is not better, and that he will be really discouraged if the recommendation occurs. Member Rushing agreed, especially because of the demographics. Chair Harmon stated she hoped over time First Things First would have a more effective method of boundaries than zip codes, because she does not see how where mail delivery occurs has anything to do with providing our services. Members had discussion with staff regarding the zip code swapping, and asked if this was something originally recommended by First Things First State Board for financial reasons. Senior Director Lyons provided a quick reminder overview of the Regional Boundary Task Force process, and responded no, the consolidation recommendation did not originate from the State Board. Members had further discussion around the issues of consolidating. Member Rushing stated that with the demographics being so different and then the allocations being fixed means there is no benefit to consolidating, except one body looking at the pot (of monetary resources) rather than two. Vice Chair Johnson shared that it was her understanding that the recommendation was made so the conversation would happen, not because of conviction the consolidation was needed. Member Pitt shared that she then felt it was not advisable as the needs are so different. Members asked further questions about discrepancies between the money as separate and combined on the sheet provided. Staff stated that was probably due to a combination of the swapping of zip codes and not counting the "other" or "discretionary" funding in the numbers used for the consolidation. Vice Chair Johnson says she believes it is important to consider that the Pima regions have collaborated wherever they could that made sense. Member Hill asked if there was a place they could see the documents and discussion from the meetings, and Ms. Brisson said yes, the same website, through the First Things First website, as the survey listed on the document provided and emailed out from the First Things First Central Office.

Update and Discussion: Systems Building

Chair Harmon introduced the agenda item and turned the floor over to Ms. Brisson. Ms. Brisson explained the meetings that had occurred thus far with Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), their origin in an idea from Member Hill to possibly utilize some of the closing TUSD schools as community centers or "hubs", and how that tied back into conversations of systems building. She stated she was looking for consensus of what role the Regional Council will play if this idea continues to move forward; as well as who the Regional Council envisions being at the table such as Library system, Tucson Parks and Recreation, the Mayor's Office, etc. Members shared their reservations regarding the huge amount of factors and cost concerned when working with school district buildings, including the maintenance and repairs needed, and especially concerns with both the school district and the Regional Council facing deficits in the present or near future. Chair Harmon shared that determining who should be there depends on which "school" might be utilized, what neighborhood it is in, etc. Member Hill shared his idea as it was in conceptual format, and how the school is something that really belongs to the community, and how he felt the community could utilize what the schools may have, such as gardens, library, laboratories, etc. He also spoke about utilizing some external partners such as Educare. Chair Harmon shared that this could possibly be tied back to the University of Arizona, a department there might be able to conduct some research and urban planning, including looking further into where these school are, what condition, what purpose they serve in the community. She reiterated that place is as important as conceptual idea. Vice Chair Johnson shared that Dr. Ann Mastergeorge (new member) is a wonderful resource, and she also feels all the current grantees are other players in this idea. Ms. Brisson shared with the Regional Council that Member Dr. Ann Mastergeorge was confirmed as a member by the State Board only yesterday, and would be at the May meeting. Members engaged in a little more discussion and then Members Pitt and Rushing announced that they had to leave.

Adjourn

Chair Harmon stated that members could read their directors report at home and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Submitted By _____
Siobhan McDonald, Administrative Assistant

Approved By _____
Peg Harmon, Chair

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20____.